

What is claimed is:

1. An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body comprising gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, each of the gingival and occlusal tie wings having a mesial/distal extent, said gingival wing comprising a gingivally-extending center leg and gingivally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, wherein said gingivally-extending center leg extends a greater distance from said archwire slot than each of said gingivally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, said occlusal wing comprising an occlusally-extending center leg and occlusally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions, wherein said occlusally-extending center leg extends a greater distance from said archwire slot than each of said occlusally-extending mesial and distal wing tip portions;

a first set of gingival and occlusal notches, the gingival notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said gingival tie wing and the occlusal notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said occlusal tie wing;

a second set of gingival and occlusal notches, the gingival notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said gingival tie wing and the occlusal notch being disposed within the mesial/distal extent of said occlusal tie wing, said first set of notches being disposed on a mesial side of said bracket and said second set of notches being disposed on a distal side of said bracket; and

a base interconnected to said body, said base having a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base including a discontinuous perimeter rail.

2. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 1, wherein said gingival edges of said gingival tie wing and occlusal edges of said occlusal tie wing define an elliptical configuration.
3. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 1, wherein said discontinuous perimeter rail has a surface finish of less than about 110.8 micro-inches.
4. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 1, wherein said pattern comprises identifying trademarks of a manufacturer of said bracket.
5. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot including said pattern of characters.
6. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot not including said pattern of characters.

7. An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:

a body comprising first and second opposing tie wings defining a labially opening and mesiodistally-extending archwire slot therebetween, said first tie wing having an outer sidewall extending labially away from a longitudinal center plane of said archwire slot, said
5 second tie wing having an outer sidewall extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal center plane of the archwire slot, wherein a trapezoidal configuration is defined between said outer sidewalls; and,

a base interconnected to said body, said base having a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base including a discontinuous perimeter
10 rail.

8. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 7, wherein said discontinuous perimeter rail has a surface finish of less than about 110.8 micro-inches.

9. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 7, wherein said pattern comprises identifying trademarks of a manufacturer of said bracket.

10. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 7, further comprising at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot including said pattern of characters.

11. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 7, further comprising at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot not including said pattern of characters.

12. An edgewise orthodontic bracket comprising:
- a body including gingival and occlusal tie wings defining a labially opening archwire slot therebetween, said archwire slot having opposing sidewalls and an adjoining floor;
- a first convex portion extending labially from said floor and across said archwire slot;
- 5 a first auxiliary slot positioned under said convex portion; and
- a base interconnected to said body, said base having a substantially continuous pattern of characters and intermediate space, said base including a discontinuous perimeter rail, said characters and said perimeter rail interrupted by said first auxiliary slot.
13. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as claimed in claim 12, wherein said discontinuous perimeter rail has a surface finish of less than about 110.8 micro-inches.
14. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 12, wherein said pattern comprises identifying trademarks of a manufacturer of said bracket.
15. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 12, further comprising at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot including said pattern of characters.

16. An edgewise orthodontic bracket as recited in claim 12, further comprising at least one auxiliary slot, said at least one auxiliary slot not including said pattern of characters.